

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Don Neal  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: George Ortega  
and Kristin Mills  
TREASURER: Richard Perry  
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Jose Oliva



**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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Minutes of the  
**SYLMAR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (SNC)  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, April 25, 2013**

at the Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342

SNC (and all other) Meeting Minutes are a summary, not an exact, verbatim, word-for-word transcript of what was said at a Meeting. The only two exceptions to this are the Motions and quotes, which are words that have quotation marks (") at the beginning and ending of a word or words. The Minutes were not, are not and are never meant to be a comprehensive record of what was said about an issue or project.

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

President Don Neal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**2. Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats (Community-Based Organizations and Retail) were vacant. Board Members present: Ricardo Benitez, Deidre Campbell-Jones, Brianne King, Sherry Lincoln, Kristin Mills, Don Neal, Judi Neal, George Ortega, Richard Perry, Chris Shows and Roy Smith. Cheri Blose, Laurie Fadness, Jose Oliva and Diane Valencia arrived later. Board Members absent: Edward Campos (excused), Ann Job (unexcused), Derek Martin (excused) and Rubi Ramirez (unexcused). Eleven of the 19 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The SNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 11, so the Board could take such votes. Also attending: 29 Stakeholders and Guests.

**3. Housekeeping, Speaker Cards and Timekeeper – Mr. Neal explained this.**

**4. Welcome and Introduction by Board Meeting Host.**

Mr. Neal thanked the Sylmar Recreation Center for hosting the Meeting.

**5. Approval of the Minutes**

The following correction to the January 24, 2013 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested: page one, Item #2: Roy Smith's absence was excused.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 24, 2013 General Board Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 10 in favor; Mr. Smith abstained.

*Board Member Diane Valencia arrived at this time.*

**MOTION** (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Perry): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 28, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

**6. Public Officials and Community Representatives announcements and presentations.**

Manny Figueras, Constituent Svcs. Rep. for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-8409; Manny.Figueras@LACity.org), announced an unwanted prescription drugs drop off and an East Valley Sanitation Yard Open House, both on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Sylmar Hang Gliding Club Festival will be May 18<sup>th</sup>. Police are investigating the pedestrian-car accident at Hubbard and Dronfield.

Alonzo Menchaca, LAPD Mission Division (north/east of Glenoaks Blvd.) Senior Lead Officer (mobile/text 818-634-0619; office 818-838-9846; 36178@LAPD.LACity.org; [http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission\\_Community\\_Police\\_Station](http://www.LAPDonline.org/Mission_Community_Police_Station)), announced the May 18<sup>th</sup> Mission Station Open House; tours are available. Crime is up 6.4% over last year, though violent crime is lower. The FBI helped “take down” some San Fer gang members. He explained that some of the most frequent complaints the Police get are about homeless people “urinating in public” and “laying down on the sidewalk” blocking pedestrian access.

*Board Member Cheri Blose arrived at this time.*

Officer Menchaca added that the Police offer and sometimes transport homeless people to where they want to go.

**7. Board Member community announcements.**

Ms. Campbell-Jones reported that the City installed more sidewalk curb cuts and that SoCalGas will install “Smart Meters” in the Sylmar area in 2017. Ms. Lincoln announced the May 18<sup>th</sup> Spoken Word event at L.A. Mission College (LAMC). Mr. Neal reported that the Sylmar Women’s Club funds scholarships for Sylmar High School and LAMC students; last year they raised \$14,000.

*Board Member Laurie Fadness arrived at this time.*

Mr. Neal announced the May 4th Sylmar Olive Festival wine tasting event and the May 11<sup>th</sup> Springfest event at LAMC.

## 8. **Reports**

Secretary -- The Secretary reported on recent work for website revision and Meeting Agenda requests; assisting in getting City services; facilitating and forwarding Agendizing and funding requests; forwarding City, community and Treasurer documentation; sending e-mail spam warnings; and more.

Treasurer/Budget -- Mr. Perry deferred to below [the first] Item #10.

Land Use -- Mr. Ortega indicated that there was no report.

Outreach -- There was no report.

Government Affairs, Public Safety and Services -- Mr. Shows indicated that there was no report.

Equestrian -- Ms. Blöse deferred to below [the second] Item #10.

Bylaws -- Mr. Martin indicated that there was no report.

Education -- Mr. Neal reported that the Committee discussed the parent trigger issue.

*Board Member Jose Oliva arrived at this time.*

## 9. **Public Comments**

Stakeholder Dan Feinberg of Citizens Against Strip Mining spoke about how the County handles sediment from the Pacoima Wash Reservoir. He said “it’s an environmental issue . . . where are they going to put the sediment, how are they going to get it there and what’ll be the impact on the community?” The sediment may be deposited in the May Sediment Placement Site below Cable Mountain. He described possible impacts and indicated that health impacts are already being felt. There will be a Scoping Meeting in early July.

Antonio Sanchez and Monica Ratliff, LAUSD School Board District Six Candidates, described their background, experience and goals. Albert Alvarez, President, LAMC Foundation, thanked the SNC for its Springfest funding. The Foundation awarded \$26,000 in student scholarships and also donated \$4,000 to the Sylmar Independent Baseball League for uniforms. He relayed that LAMC President Dr. Monte Perez invited Board Members to quarterly President’s Council Meetings.

*[This Agenda Item continued being addressed after Item #14.]* Stakeholder Nina Royal displayed, described and recommended that the SNC purchase a book published by the Burbank Fire Dept. titled “It’s a Disaster” to distribute for fire prevention, saying it’s “a fantastic outreach tool.”

## **Old Business**

- 10. Discussion** of SNC Outreach activities, goals, outreach vehicles, SNC Board Member responsibilities and expectations of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council. Discussion of revision of SNC Bylaws. Mr. Perry reported a Fiscal Year 2012-2013 remaining funding balance of \$3,847 minus current expenses and explained the need to allocate all funds by the June 30<sup>th</sup> end of the Fiscal Year.

## **New Business**

- 10. [The second Item #10.] Presentation and possible vote** [see the below Motion]. Ms. Blose explained that the SNC Equestrian Committee is working to preserve equestrian areas. Only 1,300 horses are registered in Los Angeles, "including only 350 in the 91342 zip code"; the number of horses being kept in the area is far higher. She explained that registering horses helps represent and preserve equestrian-zoned properties and areas. She explained the need for equestrian access trails and described the event. Ms. Fadness said that "a large Hispanic group will be there . . . if you don't own a horse" or "a dog or cat" you can still attend.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Mr. Benitez): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will financially support in an amount not to exceed \$500 the May 19, 2013 "Make Your Horse Count" program at Stetson Ranch to have a license drive, micro-chipping clinic, dog and cat vaccinations, and a spay and neuter clinic. Funds are to print event posters that mention the SNC and for porta-potties.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote of all 15 Board Members present.

- 11. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion]. Stakeholder Jan Sandstrom explained the event and purpose: "to create an awareness of ways to prevent cancer . . . show support for cancer survivors" and more. She described family and educational activities and information available. Everyone is invited.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Blose, seconded by Ms. Lincoln): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will financially support the "Relay for Life" Cancer Walk-a-Thon 24-hour event on Saturday May 18-19, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$500 for tents, food, outreach, and other event related supplies.

**DISCUSSION:** The event will be at Olive Vista Middle School.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Neal); there were no objections.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote of all 15 Board Members present.

**12. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Neal spoke on behalf of Robert Razo, who was unable to attend. The event is to honor Councilman Alarcon for his long community service.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Ortega, seconded by Mr. Oliva): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will financially support the Richard Alarcon Appreciation BBQ on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at L.A. Mission College in an amount not to exceed \$400 towards food, paper supplies, outreach materials, rental equipment and other event-related supplies.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with 10 in favor; one opposed; four abstained.

**13. Discussion and possible vote** [see the below Motion].

Stakeholder Eugene Hernandez explained that the Bill [see the Internet page [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=ab\\_5&sess=CUR&house=B&author=ammiano](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_5&sess=CUR&house=B&author=ammiano)] proposes to protect the rights of homeless people. He said that State Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra and City Councilman Richard Alarcon both support the Bill. [The Agenda said:] "Under the bill, they could not be forced into shelters, but would have access to them. It also mandates that public bathrooms be available around the clock, and protects the "basic human right" to panhandle. They could sit, sleep, move about and engage in "life-sustaining activities that must be carried out in public spaces because of homelessness."

**MOTION** (by Mr. Benitez, seconded by Ms. Campbell-Jones): The Sylmar Neighborhood Council will write a letter of support for Assembly Bill AB5, the "Homeless Bill of Rights and Fairness Act."

**DISCUSSION:** A Stakeholder believed that the Act is needed to protect homeless people; he noted that the City of Los Angeles turned back people arriving from the Dust Bowl in the 1930's. Many Board Members indicated that they would like time to read the Bill before voting on it.

**MOTION to TABLE** this Item (by Mr. Benitez, seconded by Ms. Fadness).

**MOTION to TABLE PASSED** with 13 in favor.

Mr. Neal invited Mr. Hernandez to return to the next General Board Meeting.

**14. Presentation** on "How to Increase Stakeholder Participation" by harnessing the power of mobile technology to strengthen and grow your community. Stakeholder David Hernandez and Armond Santos presented. Mr. Santos showed slides and described a method "to promote Stakeholder participation." He said the website is "interactive . . . it creates dialogues." He displayed and described the

website's features and implementation procedure; Stakeholders can scan "Q" codes on fliers for information.

*Board Member Ricardo Benitez had to leave at this time.*

Mr. Santos continued that website changes easily can be made. The website would cost \$4,000 the first year.

**15. Appointments and/or vote** to name new Board Members. Open seats: Community-Based Organizations (CBO) and Retail Representatives; Committee Chairs, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant at Arms.  
[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.*] There were no appointments at this time.

**16. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Ortega encouraged contacting him or other Land Use Committee Members regarding upcoming land use items.

**17. Future Agenda Items, next Meeting date**

Mr. Neal encouraged writing to the Executive Board at ExecutiveBoard@SylmarNC.org, or mail Sylmar Neighborhood Council, c/o Sylmar Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342. The next General Board Meeting will be on May 23, 2013 at a location to be announced.

**18. Closing Remarks, Acknowledgements and Adjournment**

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Mr. Neal, seconded by Mr. Smith).

**MOTION to ADJOURN PASSED** by a hand vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes written by DL.